

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:LMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018817 TOSEC 010238

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 0768 ACTION STATE INFO AMMAN ATHENS
DAMASCUS

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0768

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN, DRAPER, AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR DAY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. CEASEFIRE HOLDING IN BEIRUT WITH LESS SHOOTING
THAN YESTERDAY. ONE EXCEPTION SEEMS TO BE STARCO AREA NEAR
CENTER OF TOWN WHERE WE ARE TOLD PHALANGE UNIT IS DRAGGING
ITS HEELS ON MOVING BACK FOR FEAR THAT THIS WILL EXPOSE
ITS LOCAL HEADQUARTERS. UPCOUNTRY FIGHTING SEEMS TO HAVE
SUBSIDED, THOUGH AGAIN WE HAVE A REPORT OF CONSIDERABLE
SHELLING OF ZAHLE.

2. KHADDAM IS STILL HERE NEGOTIATING. WE GATHER MANY
DETAILS ARE STILL BEING THRASHED OUT. FRANGIE DID NOT
RPT NOT MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CONTENTS OF THE
AGREEMENT YESTERDAY AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED. CURRENT
REPORTS HAVE IT HE MIGHT MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY OR
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TOMORROW.

3. PRESENCE OF MUSLIM REFUGEES FROM KARANTINA AREA AND CHRISTIAN REFUGEES FROM DAMOUR HAS EMPHASIZED EXISTENCE OF FOOD SHORTAGES DUE TO BREAKDOWN IN CITY AND ENVIRONS. SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAW AND ORDER IN WESTERN, I.E., MUSLIM HELD, SECTOR OF CITY RESTS WITH PLO AND PLA FORCES. JUMBLATT MADE STATEMENT LATE YESTERDAY CONDEMNING LOOTERS WHO HAVE BEEN CLEANING OUT ABANDONED HOMES IN DAMOUR, AND COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT AS PUNISHMENT, CARS LADEN WITH LOOT WOULD BE SEIZED AND BURNED. SEVERAL WERE THUS SEIZED BY PALESTINIAN POLICE FORCES YESTERDAY AND BURNED.

4. AIRPORT HAS REOPENED AND AIRPORT ROAD WAS SUCCESSFULLY TRAVELED THIS MORNING BY FIRST CONTINGENT OF OUR EVACUEES UNDER INFORMAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT WITH COMMERCIAL FIRM, BEIRUT EXPRESS. WE PLAN TO HAVE BULK OF EVACUEES OUT IN NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS USING THIS LOW-PROFILE METHOD. OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE CHAUFFEUR STRANDED AT AIRPORT NOW EITHER RETURNED TO TOWN OR TAKEN PLANES TO OTHER DESTINATIONS. FEELING OF EUPHORIA IS DIFFICULT TO RESIST, BUT WE ARE ALL CONSCIOUS OF FACT CEASEFIRE IS STILL IN EARLY STAGES AND PROSPECTS REMAIN UNCERTAIN. WE ARE SEIZING THIS MOMENT TO MAKE A CONCERTED NEW EFFORT ON GALLAGHER-DYKES.
LAMBRAKIS
UNQUOTE
SISCO

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